

REMARKS

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment. Claims 1-5 are rejected for the reasons discussed below. Claims 6-12 are added. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to for certain informalities. In particular, the Examiner noted that the acronym "PLD" is not defined in the claim statement. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite explicitly a "programmable logic device (PLD)". Such amendment is fully supported by the specification as filed, for example at page 1, line 12, and does not relate to prior art. Applicants have also made a corresponding amendment in Claim 4. Therefore, in light of these amendments to Claims 1 and 4, Applicants believe the objection has been overcome, and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Curd et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,838,901 ("Curd"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Curd generally describes a protection mechanism for locking a programmable logic device (PLD). The protection mechanism includes authorizing a user to modify configuration data by providing an access code. In one embodiment, Curd describes comparing bits in an input key register to bits in a data protect override key register. If the bits match, then the PLD may be modified. (See, e.g., Curd at col. 2, lines 21-50). Thus, Curd provides access control to a PLD.

In contrast, Claim 1 recites a PLD having a decryptor for decrypting an encrypted bitstream, and loading decryption keys into memory using a JTAG port. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to clarify that the decryption keys are used by the decryptor to decrypt the encrypted bitstream. This amendment merely makes explicit what was inherent in the claim, and does not relate to prior art. Nowhere in Curd is decryption, or any similar concept, even mentioned, much less taught or suggested. The input key in Curd is not a decryption key, but rather is a password or an access code. (See, e.g., Curd at col. 3, lines 26-28). In Curd, when the input key provided by a user matches a key in a data protect override key register, then access to the PLD is granted; otherwise, access is denied. This is different from a decryption key that is used by a decryptor to decrypt an encrypted bitstream.

Therefore, since Curd does not teach or even suggest a decryption key, Applicants believe Claim 1 is allowable and respectfully request allowance of Claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from Claim 1 and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants believe Claims 2 and 3 are also allowable, and respectfully request their allowance.

Claim 4 recites a PLD comprising a circuit for loading at least one decryption key through the test access port. As set forth above, Curd does not disclose or even suggest a decryption key. Therefore, Applicants believe Claim 4 is allowable, and respectfully request allowance of Claim 4.

Claim 5 depends from Claim 4 and thus includes all of the limitations of Claim 4. Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 4, Applicants believe Claim 5 are also allowable, and respectfully request its allowance.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 6-12. These claims are fully supported by the specification as filed, for example at page 26, line 10 to page 28, line 2, and at Fig. 3.

Claims 6-9 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1 and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants believe Claims 6-9 are also allowable, and respectfully request their allowance.

Claims 10-12 depend from Claim 4 and thus include all of the limitations of Claim 4. Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 4, Applicants believe Claims 10-12 are also allowable, and respectfully request their allowance.

Conclusion

No new matter has been introduced by any of the above amendments. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that Claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is therefore requested. If action other than allowance is contemplated by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' attorney, Justin Liu, at 408-879-4641.


Respectfully submitted,



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